

Times Features

Evergreen blooms with new retail, shows positive economic trend

By Councilmember
Rose Herrera

Special to the Times

There are reasons to be optimistic about our future. We are seeing signs that this deep recession may be thawing. More jobs are coming to Silicon Valley and new businesses are opening in Evergreen. This past weekend over 300 hundred people and their pets joined me in celebrating the grand opening of Canyon Creek Pet hospital and we are eagerly awaiting the opening of two new grocery stores.

I am buoyed by the report from the state's employment department that for the first time in more than two decades, California scored its biggest one-month job gain in February adding over 96,500 new jobs.

As the global leader in innovation, when Silicon Valley grows, the rest of the world follows. We will be a catalyst for the recovery. Regionally, more than 4,500 jobs were added and that is more than the average for this time of

year. Santa Clara County's rate of 10.3 percent was its lowest in nearly two years, down from 10.5 percent in January. A .2 difference may sound small statistically, but to the families that now have a paycheck, it is huge. Tech hiring in the valley was up 1,200 jobs over the month. Even construction jobs showed a slight gain, with the first yearly job increase in 39 months.

This positive economic trend can also be seen in the increasing number of business owners willing to invest in our Evergreen community and open new businesses. Investing almost \$1 million, Canyon Creek Pet Hospital's owners have opened their doors providing Evergreen pet owners a full service state-of-the-art pet



District 8 Report

By Rose Herrera
City Councilmember

hospital seven days a week until mid-night.

I'm proud to announce good news on the grocery store front. New Leaf Community Markets and Fresco World Market are both coming to Evergreen. Just finalized two weeks ago, New Leaf Community Markets is locating at Canyon Creek Plaza in the former PW Market location. Officials of New Leaf Community Markets, a Santa Cruz-based regional natural foods grocery chain, just announced the plan to open their first Silicon Valley store in the fall. The New Leaf store will offer classes on cooking, health, and nutrition. It will feature a salad bar, hot food bar, and juice bar. New Leaf officials say they donate 10 percent of their annu-

al profits to nonprofits.

Fresco World Market is a one-of-a-kind grocery store opening in early summer at Eastridge in the former Circuit City location. The owners are investing more than \$6 million at this location. The store celebrates the vibrant multi-ethnic cultures of the Bay Area. Fresco will offer an array of specialty and ethnic foods from around the world, as well as traditional and conventional groceries. In addition to a diverse grocery department, there will be a full service meat and seafood department along with the largest produce department in Santa Clara County. Fresco will be hiring over 150 employees and we are thrilled they have committed to hire locally.

All of these stores will fill a niche in our community and will provide a unique experience tailored to their customers. The fact that these stores are opening now is a vote of confidence in our local economy. I am dedicated to supporting new retail opening in Evergreen as I have been

working with the owners of both centers. I commend Canyon Creek Pet Hospital, New Leaf, and Fresco for their willingness to take on the risk of opening a business in these times and bringing much needed jobs, retail, and services to our community.

Please join me in welcoming them to Evergreen and stay tuned for more grand opening dates!

If you need assistance or have any questions, please contact my office at (408) 535-4908 or by e-mail at district8@sanjoseca.gov.

We have some great events coming up. Add them to your calendar and join me!

■ Saturday, April 16 at 8:03 a.m. 5k Rabbit Run/Walk, Lake Cunningham Park

■ Monday, May 9 from 6 – 8 p.m. District 8 Community Budget Meeting, Quimby Oak Middle School - Multimedia Room

■ Saturday, May 21 at 8:30 a.m. District 8 Senior Health Fair and Walk, Eastridge

Off the Shelf: Celebrating Volunteer Appreciation Week

By Vidya Kilambi
Special to the Times

On the occasion of Volunteer Appreciation Week (April 10-16), the Evergreen Branch Library would like to acknowledge and celebrate all our volunteers who have given their time and their talent to our community. The library will host a special recognition event for our volunteers on Friday, April 15 at 4 p.m. in the Community Room. Our theme for this year will be "Volunteers Touching Lives, Lifting Spirits." If you have volunteered at the Evergreen Library anytime during the last year please come to this event and pick up your recognition certificate.

One of our volunteers, who has given tirelessly of his time to the Evergreen Community for the past two years, is Nathan Ganeshan of Nathan Notary. He provides free notary services to seniors, every Saturday from 1 – 2 p.m. at the Evergreen Library. Recently, I was able to ask him a few questions about how he decided to volunteer his time at the local library.

Question: When did you decide to become a mobile notary public and how did it all come about?

Answer: I first became a notary public in 2007. Service is my passion! I am a service oriented person and always looking for an opportunity to provide service to the public and that's where I got the idea of becoming a notary public. Notary public is nothing but an impartial public official serving the public with their notary needs.

Question: What does it mean to be a mobile notary public?

Answer: A mobile notary public is the same as a notary public except the notary travels to the signer's door step or to a desired location. The concept of a customer searching for a notary and traveling to the notary's office is changing.

Question: Do you belong to any associations for your type of business and if so, which ones? Have they helped to boost your business or simply inform you?

Answer: I am a member of a few prestigious notary organizations such as the National Notary Association (small business and signing agent), Association for Professional Notaries and Certified Loan signing agent (APN and CSA), 123Notary.com, and the Evergreen Business and Professional Association.

Being part of such organizations has definitely helped my business grow and has also helped me gain tremendous knowledge on current notary laws which in turn helps me provide better service to my customers.

Question: Have you encountered any unique, possibly humorous experiences as a mobile notary public?

Answer: There are many situations which I can never forget in the last five years of my notary career. One thrilling experience was notarizing the signature of a signer who is blind. Secondly, notarizing the signature of a 92-year-old signer who herself was a notary once upon a time. It was very humorous to learn about the notary laws then. And finally notarizing signer's signature so his spouse's body could be released from the hospital. It was very sad and touching. In all of these situations I provided my mobile notary service.

So, if you have ever wanted to be part of your community or ever wanted to make a difference, please consider volunteering at your local library. Check out all the great opportunities on our website at <http://www.sjpl.org/donate>.

April 1 - April 30 is the Month of the Young Child (MOYC) and focuses public attention on the needs of children and their families, particularly the need for early childhood education. The City of San José's Month of the Young Child is highlighted by the San José Children's Faire, a free one day event for children ages 2-12-years and their parents or caregivers.

The San José Children's Faire will be held on Saturday, April 16 from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Discovery Meadow (in front of the Children's Discovery Museum). It is expected to draw over 5,000 attendees in downtown San José. "Play Together, Learn Together: Growing with Giggles and Grins" is the theme for this year's annual event, which features family-oriented stage entertainment, special attractions, and activity booths offering hands-on activities for children, ages two to 12, in addition to information for families about education, child care, health and safety resources, and recreational programs. For more information, visit www.sjpl.org/moyc or call (408) 808-2617.

Vidya Kilambi is a librarian at the Evergreen Branch Library, which is located at 2635 Aborn Road, between Capitol Expressway and White Road. The library phone number is (408) 808-3060. Evergreen Branch Library is part of the San José Public Library System. For more information, visit the library website, sjpl.org.

Foreclosure, real estate forum at Grace Church

Facing foreclosure? Fear losing your home? Need help understanding your home's value in the current economy?

No one talks about it but it is on the back of almost everybody's mind. Am I 'upside down' in today's housing market? And if someone has lost or is about to lose their job there is potential panic about what will happen to the house they live in. Am I facing foreclosure? Is it possible to create a win-win situation?

These and many other questions will be addressed at a Housing Ownership Informational Forum to be held Saturday, April 9 at Grace Church of Evergreen from 10 a.m.-12 noon.

The forum will be led by a panel of specialists involved in housing services, accounting, banking, realty specialists and an attorney. They will be available for individual consultation after the forum.

The event is sponsored by Alain Pinel Realtors and hosted by Grace Church of Evergreen located at 2650 Aborn Road. For more information visit www.GraceChurchofEvergreen.org or contact Ivonne Gutierrez at (408) 754-1643.